

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/moreorless>

Brain Food and Bacteria: 19 Nov 2012

Mon, 19 Nov 12

Duration:

10 mins

There's not an obvious link between chocolate and Nobel prizes, but this did not stop news outlets around the world reporting the amount of chocolate a country consumes influences the number of Nobel prizes they will win. In many cases the scientific study was reported without question or comment. Ruth Alexander asks what this story tells us about the way the media reports scientific studies, and why the correlation between the two might be so strong.

http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/radio4/moreorless/moreorless_20121119-0001a.mp3

discussing

Chocolate Consumption, Cognitive Function, and Nobel Laureates

Franz H. Messerli, M.D.

N Engl J Med 2012; 367:1562-1564 [October 18, 2012](#) DOI: 10.1056/NEJMon1211064

<http://www.nejm.org/action/showImage?doi=10.1056%2FNEJMon1211064&iid=f01>

At time 1:50 regarding the test of a null hypothesis of whether a correlation is equal to zero vs not equal to zero. Franz H. Messerli, M.D. interprets a p-value for us.

1. “When you correlate the two, there was an incredibly close relationship between the two. It had a p-value of 0.0001, which means that this being through chance is less than 1 in 10,000.”
2. “It gives you the probability that this is a true finding or a chance finding.”